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Clean Driving Habits Pay

Want to save money at the gas pump? Then drive clean and green. Driving habits really do affect the family budget.

With transportation costs eating up more of the family budget, any savings are worthwhile. Look no farther than the family car or truck. It is possible to save money--and help the environment--by changing driving habits.

Speeding, for example, does not pay. Fuel efficiency drops at higher speeds, and the vehicle releases more pollutants. Accelerating and decelerating slowly also help with fuel economy and air emissions.

Another recommendation: don't idle. Doing so wastes gasoline, produces carbon monoxide, and damages pollution control equipment. It's better to turn off the engine at a drive-through, or park and go inside.

Maintaining the vehicle does a lot for the pocketbook and the environment. That includes maintaining the engine, keeping the tires properly inflated, changing filters, and servicing the air conditioning.

When shopping for a new vehicle, ask the dealer about vehicles that emit fewer pollutants.

Finally, is driving always necessary? Commuters who use public transit or join a vanpool take part in reducing traffic volume and exhaust emissions.

These tips come from the [Drive Clean Across Texas](#) public service campaign for improved air quality. The TCEQ is a cosponsor.

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